IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 2 and claim 6 without prejudice.

Please rewrite the claims to read as follows:

1. (Amended) Asynchronous connection-oriented transmission network (10) of the ATM network type comprising a plurality of switching nodes (12, 14, 16, 18) interconnected by connection lines, each of said switching nodes being associated with a control point being in charge of determining the best route between any source node (12) and any destination node (18) when a connection has to be established therebetween by identifying which of the connection lines are eligible based upon the requirement of a quality of service;

said network being characterized in that each one of said plurality of switching nodes comprises:

Control ATM Test Application (CATMTA) means (22) and Deamon ATM Test Application (DATMTA) means (32) so that, at any time, a user interfacing a source node can test the connectivity of a network connection from said source node to a destination node by initiating a connection procedure wherein a call setup message (Fig. 1) is sent by the CATMTA means of said source node to said destination node and the DATMTA

means of said destination node send back an acknowledgement message (Fig. 2) to said source node; and

said Control ATM Test Application (CATMTA) means (22) comprise means for sending a verification data stream (Fig. 3) to said destination node after receiving said acknowledgement message and said Deamon ATM Test Application (DATMTA) means (32) comprise means for sending back a response data stream after receiving said verification data stream, said verification and response data streams being used to check the characteristics of the connection previously established between said source node and said destination node.

3. (Amended) Asynchronous connection-oriented transmission network (10) according to claim 1 [or 2,] being an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) network.

4. (Amended) Asynchronous connection-oriented transmission network (10) according to claim 1 [or 2,] being a Frame Relay network.

5. (Amended) Method for triggering the control plane in an asynchronous connection-oriented transmission network [according to any one of claims 1 to 4], comprising the following steps initiated at any time on request by a user interfacing a source node (12):

sending from the Control ATM Test Application (CATMTA) means (22) of said source node a call setup message (Fig. 1) for testing the connectivity of a network con-

nection to the Deamon ATM Test Application (DATMTA) means (32) of a destination node (18), and

sending back an acknowledgement message (Fig. 2) from said DATMTA means of said destination node to said CATMTA means of said source node when the connection has been successfully established between said source node and said destination node; and

sending a verification data stream (Fig. 3) from said CATMTA means in said source node (12) to said destination node (18) after receiving said acknowledgement message (Fig. 2), and sending back a response data stream from said DATMTA means in said destination node to said source node, whereby said verification and response data streams are used to check the characteristics of the connection previously established between said source node and said destination node.

7. (Amended) Method according to claim 5 [6], wherein said verification and response data streams are used to check the end-to-end transit delay of the connection previously established between said source node and said destination node.

8. (Amended) Method according to claim 5 [6], wherein said verification and response data streams are sued to check whether the bandwidth requested by the user interfacing said source node has been actually allocated for a constant bit rate over the connection previously established between said source node and said destination node.

PLEASE ADD NEW CLAIMS 9 *et seq.* as follows:

9. (New) A method for operating a computer, comprising:

sending a call setup message over a computer network to a destination computer;

receiving an acknowledgement message from the destination computer indicating that the call setup message was received, the acknowledgement message indicating that a connection through the computer network is established between the computer and the destination computer;

sending a verification data stream to the destination computer in response to receiving the acknowledgement message, the verification data stream sent over the connection;

receiving a response data stream from the destination computer, the response data stream sent over the connection; and

checking a characteristics of the connection in response to the verification data stream and the received response data stream.

10. (New) The method as in claim 9, further comprising:

establishing the connection in an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) computer network.

11. (New) The method as in claim 9, further comprising:

establishing the connection in a Frame Relay computer network.

12. (New) The method as in claim 9, further comprising:

checking an end-to-end transit delay of the connection using said verification and response data streams.

13. (New) The method as in claim 9, further comprising:

checking whether a bandwidth requested by a user interfacing said computer has been actually allocated for a constant bit rate over the connection using said verification and response data streams.

14. (New) A computer, comprising:

means for sending a call setup message over a computer network to a destination computer;

means for receiving an acknowledgement message from the destination computer indicating that the call setup message was received, the acknowledgement message indicating that a connection through the computer network is established between the computer and the destination computer;

means for sending a verification data stream to the destination computer in response to receiving the acknowledgement message, the verification data stream sent over the connection;

means for receiving a response data stream from the destination computer, the response data stream sent over the connection; and

means for checking a characteristics of the connection in response to the verification data stream and the received response data stream.

15. (New) The computer as in claim 14, further comprising:

means for establishing the connection in an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) computer network.

16. (New) The computer as in claim 14, further comprising:

means for establishing the connection in a Frame Relay computer network.

17. (New) The computer as in claim 14, further comprising:

means for checking an end-to-end transit delay of the connection using said verification and response data streams.

18. (New) The computer as in claim 14, further comprising:

means for checking whether a bandwidth requested by a user interfacing said computer has been actually allocated for a constant bit rate over the connection using said verification and response data streams.

19. (New) A computer, comprising:

a transmitter to send a call setup message over a computer network to a destination computer;

a receiver to receive an acknowledgement message from the destination computer indicating that the call setup message was received, the acknowledgement message indicating that a connection through the computer network is established between the computer and the destination computer;

a transmitter to send a verification data stream to the destination computer in response to receiving the acknowledgement message, the verification data stream sent over the connection;

a receiver to receive a response data stream from the destination computer, the response data stream sent over the connection; and

a processor to check a characteristics of the connection in response to the verification data stream and the received response data stream.

20. (New) The computer as in claim 19, further comprising:

the computer network is an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) computer network.

21. (New) The computer as in claim 19, further comprising:

the computer network is a Frame Relay computer network.

22. (New) The computer as in claim 19, further comprising:

means for checking an end-to-end transit delay of the connection using said verification and response data streams.

23. (New) The computer as in claim 19, further comprising:

means for checking whether a bandwidth requested by a user interfacing said computer has been actually allocated for a constant bit rate over the connection using said verification and response data streams.

24. (New) A computer readable media, comprising:

said computer readable media having instructions written thereon for execution on a processor for the practice of the method of claim 5 or claim 9.

25. (New) Electromagnetic signals propagating on a computer network, comprising:

said electromagnetic signals carrying instructions for execution on a processor for the practice of the method of claim 5 or claim 9.